



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - October 2, 2003

- ▼ ***In the West***, scattered showers fall across the ***central Rockies*** and the ***Interior Northwest***, benefiting winter wheat and pastures. More rain is needed, however, to ease long-term drought in many areas and help winter wheat establishment.
- ▼ ***On the Plains***, unseasonably cold, dry weather favors summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting, but slows wheat development. Although recent rain has boosted topsoil moisture for winter wheat germination and establishment, more rain is needed to replenish drought-reduced water supplies.
- ▼ ***In the Corn Belt***, a widespread freeze prevailed as far east as western Ohio. Although the freeze had no significant impact on maturing corn and soybeans, late-developing soybeans were most vulnerable to the cold air.
- ▼ ***In the South***, showers are diminishing across the ***Florida peninsula***, allowing flood waters to recede. Elsewhere, dry, seasonably mild weather spurs summer crop maturation and harvesting. Tropical Storm Larry forms in the southern Gulf of Mexico, but does not pose an immediate threat to the ***Gulf Coast***.

Outlook: On Thursday night, the first freeze of the season will occur across the ***central and southern Appalachians***, including the ***Shenandoah Valley***. Elsewhere in the ***Mid-Atlantic***, widespread frost is likely east of the ***Blue Ridge***. Meanwhile, the highly amplified weather pattern will allow another surge of unseasonably cold air to enter the ***Great Lakes***. Lake-enhanced rain and snow showers will accompany this reinforcing shot of cold air. Heavy rain will continue to diminish across ***Florida's peninsula***. In the ***West***, scattered showers are possible in the ***central and southern Rockies***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 7-11 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Pacific Northwest, Great Basin, southern Rockies, and Rio Grande Valley***. Drier-than-normal conditions are forecast for the ***northern Plains and Mississippi Valley***. Below-normal temperatures are forecast to persist in the ***East***, while above-normal temperatures are expected in the ***West and northern Plains***.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>